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Asides

Class Warfare

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a New York Democrat, was appalled when Ted Kennedy and his cat's-paws rejected conservative literary critic Carol Iannone for the advisory council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He told the Senate he deplored "the further intellectual decline of the Democratic Party. I almost said demise, but will leave bad enough alone." The former Harvard professor believes the attacks on Ms. Iannone represented a form of intel-

lectual elitism. Her rejection did not stem "from the quality of her work, but from her genes, social and otherwise. She is an Italian, Catholic ethnic with a working-class background." Senator Moynihan noted that such people have been driven from the Democratic Party in droves. Nonetheless, he thinks Ms. Iannone has a bright future. She "has now been banned in the Democratic Party," he noted. "What greater fortune could befall an American intellectual in this decadent *fin de siecle*? I wish her well."